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THE HEAVENLY GUEST.

IDA WHIPPLE BENHAM.

Chide not thy sorrow, friend,
 'Tis joy's evangel;
 Before its mandate bend,
 Make it thine angel.

Open thy portals wide,
 Give no denial;
 Submit, be sanctified
 By this thy trial.

Austere and sad the face
 That turns to meet thee,—
 Yet soon with softer grace
 That face shall greet thee.

If but with gentle will
 Thou bear thy sorrow
 A heavenly guest shall fill
 Thy house to-morrow.

M. FREDERIC PASSY ON WAR.

The Peace and Arbitration Society of the well-known *Famillistère* of Guise, sends us an address lately delivered by M. Frederic Passy. He points out that the arguments for war are parallel with those that used to be made for slavery. In the middle ages the enthusiast for the emancipation of slaves would have been answered with the words of Aristotle: "Nature made two sorts of men, the one to command, the other to obey." But under the influence of civilization, the slave became a serf, then a free man and a citizen, equal before the law with all other men. The same change ought to take place in the relations between nations. We are already progressing. "If," says M. Passy, "there are still men behind the times whose ideal is force, men like Moltke, who think that war is good in itself as a useful stimulant, without which the world would become sickly,—these men see their numbers decreasing, and are no longer in a majority." After an eloquent allusion to the heroism displayed in many non-military callings, M. Passy quotes the calculation of M. Paul Leroy Baulieu, that, from 1854 to 1866, the civilized world lost nearly two millions of men in war. Nor is this all. The wars of the French revolution cost a million and a half of human lives. Napoleon destroyed by his military ambition six millions, a number equal to the population of Belgium.

"There are people who think the natives of Dahomey very barbarous, because, on the accession of a king, they believe it well to sail a little vessel in human blood in order to tell the fortunes of the new monarch. Now the blood of a thousand slaves is enough for the purpose, whilst in our so-called civilized countries, the great powers, for prestige, or power, or revenge, will shed the blood, not of a thousand, but of 10,000, of 500,000, of millions of persons, enough to make bloody the mightiest river of Europe or America. And yet we dare to treat as barbarians the people of Dahomey."

M. Passy dwells for a time on the horrors of the wounded, and the destructiveness and cost of modern armaments, and then turns to the remedy for all this. He recounts the progress of arbitration, and the increasing frequency with which it is now being resorted to. The address closes with an eloquent affirmation of the potency of popular opinion. Coming from one who has rendered such signal services to the cause of Peace, it is a welcome contribution to Peace literature.

The foregoing, quoted chiefly from *Messiah's Kingdom*, expresses our own view. We only regret that we cannot publish the entire speech of our honored co-worker.

The love of filthy lucre has not mastered all of the race. No more striking illustration of this is known to us than the case of Lady Burton. Her husband, eminent as a traveller and scholar, recently died, leaving the manuscript of a translation from the Arabic of Oriental tales rivalling in sensuality the unexpurgated editions of *The Arabian Nights*. Lady Burton, who had been offered six thousand guineas for the manuscript by a London publisher, realizing that the majority of the purchasers of the book would buy it for "the filth's sake" and not for its literary merit, replied, "No; not for six million guineas." "Sorrowfully, reverently, and in fear and trembling," she says, "I burnt sheet after sheet until the whole of the volumes were consumed."

THE SEALS OF BEHRING SEA.

Professor E. J. Phelps, who held the responsible office of United States Minister to England under President Cleveland's administration, undoubtedly is the best qualified—with the exception of Mr. Bayard himself, and possibly Mr. Blaine—to speak with authority concerning the controversy regarding our rights in Behring Sea. For this reason a peculiar interest attaches to the paper which he contributes to the April number of *Harper's Magazine* upon this subject. In the present condition of the affair, Mr. Phelps holds closely to the essential and practical point that the seals must be protected against extermination. The question, as he puts it, is "whether the United States Government has a right to protect its property and the business of its people from this wanton and barbarous destruction by foreigners, which it has made criminal by act of Congress; or whether the fact that it takes place upon waters that are claimed to be a part of the open sea affords an immunity to the parties engaged in it which the Government is bound to respect." It is very evident that any settlement of the dispute which fails to determine this question can be no settlement at all.—*Commonwealth*.

THE SEALS AND THE COD.

Why, bless us! there'll be no dreadful war,
 Save a war of words, as there was before;
 For the men who manage the Manchester shops,
 And the men who harvest the Yankee crops,
 Have too much sense,

And too many pence
 At stake, to take any grave offence
 At the Eagle's shriek or at Lion's roar,
 Or to ever permit the two to war,
 For it can't be long ere the day will come,
 When, common in speech, tho' foreign in lands,
 The one to the other shall say, "Old Chum,
 Let us stop this row and again shake hands."
 Then hurrah for the king of the birds of the air!
 And hurrah for the king of the beasts of the wood!
 These are nations so brave that they dare
 Put by the Sword and abide by the Rood.

—*London Arbitrator*.